

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-67 have been cancelled. without prejudice. Further, new claims 68-137 have been added. Accordingly, claims 68-136 are now under consideration in the above-referenced application. Provided above, please find a claim listing indicating the cancellation of claims 1-67 and the addition of new claims 68-136 on separate sheets so as to comply with the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

II. OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Drawings stands objected to due to minor informalities. In particular, the Examiner states that the originally-filed FIG. 1 includes boxes which do not have legends provided therein. As the Examiner shall ascertain, originally-filed FIG. 1 has been replaced with a modified FIG. 1 that is being filed herewith on a separate sheet which is labeled as a “replacement sheet.” In particular, every box in the modified FIG. 1 now includes a legend as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is now moot, and should therefore be withdrawn.

III. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS AND REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) AND 103(a) SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1, 26, 27, 32-35, 48, 55, 56, 59 and 60 stand finally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,003 issued to Tearney et al. (the “Tearney Patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,801,826 issued to Williams (the “Williams Patent”). Claims 48, 50 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,454,807 issued to

Lennox et al. (the “Lennox Patent”). Claims 49 and 52-54 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lennox Patent. Claims 1-65 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,485,413 issued to Boppart et al. (the “Boppart Patent”), in view of the Williams Patent. Claims 66 and 67 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Boppart Patent in view of the Williams Patent, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,843,052 issued to Benja-Athon (the “Benja-Athon Patent”).

As the Examiner shall ascertain, previously-pending claims 1-67 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, the above-described rejections of the now-cancelled claims is moot, and should therefore be withdrawn.

IV. NEW CLAIMS 68-136

New claims 68-136 have been added as indicated herein above. Support for these new claims can be found throughout the specification, original-filed claims and drawings. Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are patentable over the prior art of record. A confirmation that these new claims are indeed patentable over such prior art of record is respectfully requested.

V. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims 68-136 are in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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